

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 were pending prior to the current amendments. Claims 27-39 are withdrawn pursuant to the Examiner's previous restriction requirement. Claims 14-16 are canceled. Claims 1-9 and 11-26 are amended. Claims 1-13 and 17-39 are therefore pending.

The Examiner rejected Claims 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 20040203762 ("Liu"). As Claims 14 and 16 have been canceled, the Examiner's rejection of these claims has become moot.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-13 and 17-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication 20040127240 ("Li"), in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 20040203698 ("Comp"). With respect to independent Claim 1, the Examiner states:

Regarding claim 1 Li teaches a method of enabling channel scanning in a wireless station (clients), said method comprising (figs. 1-7):

receiving from an access point (API and AP2) data related to a possibility of regulatory domain change (para. # 0047-0048, 0052-0055, 0063, 0073-0075); and

selecting a channel scanning method based upon said data (when a client product has a set regulatory domain, but can confirm or change such regulatory domain based on other information elements it receives) (para. # 0018, 0073-0075, fig. 7). Li also teaches the client product can passively scan all frequencies at a predetermined time interval. The client product, the predetermined interval can be between 150 ms, which can be doubled during successive scans. According to the 802.11 standard, an AP must send out its lid beacon at least every 2 seconds.

Li does not specifically teach after the connection with the access point is terminated.

In an analogous art, Comp teaches after the connection with the access point is terminated (para. # 0021-0025). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in

the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Li teaches by specifically adding features after the connection with the access point is terminated in order to notification of loss of network connection to user is reliably performed, thus enabling user to take appropriate action taught by Comp.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection. As amended, Claim 1 recites a data packet that is received from an access point. Claim 1 recites that the data packet includes a data field by which the access point expressly advises a wireless station of a likelihood of regulatory domain change:

1. A method of enabling channel scanning in a wireless station, said method comprising:

Receiving, from an access point, a data packet that includes a data field for specifying a value that indicates a likelihood of a regulatory domain change; and,

after a connection with the access point is terminated, selecting a channel scanning method based upon the value of said data field.

Contrary to the Examiner's contention, such a data packet with the expressly provided data field is neither disclosed nor suggested in any of Li's paragraphs [0047-0048, 0052-0055 and 0073-0075]. In Li's paragraphs [0047-0048], Li discloses merely the configuration of an access point for operation. In Li's paragraphs [0052-0053], Li discloses obtaining regulatory information from a 802.11d beacon which does not include Claim 1's recited data field. In Li's paragraph [0054], Li discloses an "information element" providing regulatory information, but fails to describe any of the fields that would be included in such an "information element." In Li's paragraph [0055], the Examiner merely discloses storage and uses of the received regulatory information. In Li's paragraphs [0073-0075], Li discloses active scanning and passive scanning that are performed according to the regulatory information obtained. Thus, contrary to the Examiner's contention, Li does not disclose the "data packet that includes a data field for specifying a value that indicates a likelihood of a

regulatory domain change,” as recited in Applicant’s Claim 1.

Further, contrary to the Examiner’s contention, Applicants do not find in Comp’s paragraphs [0021-0025] any teaching relating to steps occurring “after a connection with the access point is terminated.” Rather, in Comp’s paragraphs [0021-0025] merely teaches notification to the wireless station regarding “potential loss of communication.” In other words, Comp teaches the steps taken to notify a wireless station of a potential loss in communication prior to an actual loss of communication. (How can an access point notify a wireless station of anything after communication with the wireless station has been lost?). If the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out specifically the language in Comp’s paragraphs [0021-0025] on which the Examiner relied to support his position.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 and its dependent Claims 2-7 are allowable over the combined teachings of Li and Comp. Claims 17-21, which recite the limitations “a data packet from an access point, wherein said data packet comprises a regulatory domain change pre-alert field for specifying a value indicating a likelihood of a regulatory domain change when communication between the wireless station and the receiver terminates,” are likewise each allowable over the combined teachings of Li and Comp.

The Examiner rejected Claims 8-13 based on the same disclosures in Li and Comp which the Examiner relied upon to reject Claim 1. Claims 8-13 each recite “a data packet that includes regulatory domain information and a lifetime field for specifying a value that represents a period of time for which the regulatory domain information in the data packet remains valid after termination of communication between said wireless station and said access point.” However, an examination of both Li’s paragraph [0047-0048, 0052-0055 and 0073-0075] and Comp’s paragraphs [0021-0025] reveals that neither Claim 8’s data packet

including the lifetime field, nor Claim 8's determination of "whether or not the elapsed period of time [after termination of communication between the access point and the wireless station] is greater than the period of time represented by the value in said lifetime field" is disclosed or suggested by the combined teachings of Li and Comp. If the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out the specific language in Li's paragraph [0047-0048, 0052-0055 and 0073-0075] and Comp's paragraphs [0021-0025] that the Examiner relied on for these teachings. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 8-13 are likewise allowable over the combined teachings of Li and Comp.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-13 and 17-21.

The Examiner rejected Claims 22-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Comp in view of Li. With respect to independent Claim 22, the Examiner states:

Regarding claim 22 Comp teaches a wireless station which scans for channels in a wireless communication network, said wireless station comprising (figs. 1-5):

a receiver for receiving a data block, wherein said data block comprises a lifetime field related to the extent of a domain (para. # 0021-0022); a controller (56) coupled to said receiver (50), said controller selecting a channel scanning method based upon data in said lifetime field; and a transmitter coupled to said controller (para. # 0021-0022).

Comp does not specifically teach regulatory domain.

In an analogous art, Li teaches regulatory domain (para. # 0073-0075). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Comp teaches by regulatory domain in order to advantageously conform to any regulatory domain environment, thereby allowing the client to operate permissibly in any wireless network taught by Li.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection. In this rejection, the Examiner relied substantially on the same portions of Li and Comp as discussed above (i.e., Li's paragraph [0047-0048, 0052-0055 and 0073-0075] and Comp's paragraphs [0021-0025]).

Independent Claim 22 recites, however, a data packet sent from an access point having expressly provided a lifetime field:

22. A wireless station which scans for channels in a wireless communication network, said wireless station comprising:

a receiver for receiving a data packet from an access point, wherein said data packet comprises a lifetime field for specifying a value indicative of the extent of a regulatory domain;

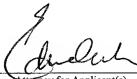
a controller coupled to said receiver, said controller selecting a channel scanning method based upon data value specified in said lifetime field; and

a transmitter coupled to said controller.

As discussed above with respect to Claims 8-13, a lifetime field that relates to a time period beginning from the time of termination of communication between the access point and the wireless station is neither disclosed nor suggested by Li or Comp. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 22-26 are likewise allowable over the combined teachings of Li can Comp. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 22-26 are therefore requested.

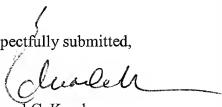
All examined claims (i.e., Claims 1-13, 17-26) are therefore allowable. If the Examiner has any question regarding the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicant at (408)-392-9250.

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